



“Dedicated to Justice” • «Au service de la justice»

March 31, 2010

The Honourable Vic Toews
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Sir:

On March 30, 2010, the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime (OFOVC) released its second report, *Toward a Greater Respect for Victims of Crime* in the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA). The OFOVC presented thirteen recommendations that would help advance and enhance the rights of victims of crime in Canada and would help better address their needs and concerns.

The report emphasizes the need to treat victims with respect and compassion, provide them with information about their rights and the offender that harmed them, respect the role they play in National Parole Board hearings and to ensure the court-ordered restitution is paid.

Our organization strongly supports all of the Ombudsman’s 13 recommendations as we work with victims on a daily basis and these issues continually arise. The rights of victims should be enshrined into legislation. Several reviews of the CCRA have identified an imbalance between the rights of the victim and the rights of the offender. The offender’s rights are repeatedly mentioned within legislation. If these thirteen recommendations were legislated, the government would help ensure that the rights of victims and offenders are more balanced, and that the victim is guaranteed a greater voice within the corrections and parole system.

We would be pleased to meet with you or your officials if needed to discuss these recommendations in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director